

Price, Richard

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Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 8:32 PM
To: pstestimony
Subject: SB1013

3/3/15

First I would like to thank this committee for the opportunity to give testimony on this important safety issue.

Briefly, the MCC Police Department has five sworn, POST-certified officers. POST stands for Police Officer Standards and Training, and it is the minimum educational requirement set by the State of Connecticut for its law enforcement officers. This means that these five individuals have the same training and abilities as any sworn officer on any Connecticut municipal police force.

Police officers at the Connecticut State Universities and UConn are armed; the officers at Manchester Community College are not, yet they are doing the job of a police officer. MCC serves a population that matches in size to the state universities. We are an open campus which serves approximately 15 K students annually, we also have an affiliated high school on the campus which adds a layer of complexity that could make us an even greater security risk.

The MCC Police Officers receive authority from Connecticut General Statute 29-18, which covers "special policemen for state property." The statute gives individual authority to each police officer at a community college campus, but does not establish a recognized police force, nor does it offer the protections that we are seeking.

The MCC Police Officers are asking that our sworn POST-certified officers be awarded the same protections afforded our colleagues at the Connecticut State Universities and UConn. SB 1013 would make MCC Police a recognized department, and allow us equal authority to that exercised by the police departments at the state's other public institutions of higher learning.

One final note; It is not anticipated that arming our officers will increase cost to the college. Cost will be offset by eliminating our contracted armored car service resulting in a net savings to the college.

Thank you for your time, and for your consideration of this bill.

Lt. Michael J. Davis

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Police Department

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